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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 14-15 and 19-20.

Please replace claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-13, 16-17, and 21-24 with the amended claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A method for collecting information related to an information distribution system, comprising:~~

~~receiving user inputs at a terminal;~~

~~collecting trend data based on the received user inputs; and~~

~~reporting the collected trend data to a server in the information distribution system~~

In an interactive information distribution system comprising provider equipment and subscriber equipment comprising a plurality of set-top terminals (STTs), a method for providing video-on-demand (VOD) programming based on subscriber preferences, comprising:

receiving, at said provider equipment via a back channel formed between each STT and said provider equipment, subscriber selections associated with an interactive program guide, said interactive program guide sent to said subscriber equipment via a forward distribution channel formed between said provider equipment and said subscriber equipment;

determining, at said service provider equipment, trend data associated with at least one subscriber, said trend data representing repeated subscriber selections occurring as said subscriber equipment; and

providing said VOD programming to said at least one subscriber based on said trend data.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each received subscriber selections user input corresponds to an event; the method further comprising:

stamping each event with a time of occurrence for the event.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
associating each event with a source where the event occurred.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the collected trend data
is reported periodically.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the collected
trend data is reported upon receiving a request for the trend data.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the trend
data includes user interaction at the subscriber equipment terminal.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the trend data includes
user demographic information.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the trend
data includes ~~user~~ subscriber selections for specific programming choices.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the trend
data is indicative of ~~user~~ subscriber preferences for programming
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the
subscriber selections ~~user inputs~~ include a selection for a particular filter icon from
among a plurality of filter icons provided in a user interface at the terminal.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the
subscriber selections ~~user inputs~~ include a selection for a particular program provided
to the terminal.

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12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the subscriber selections user-inputs include a request for a particular program to be provided to the terminal.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the subscriber selections user-inputs include user navigation through a user interface.

14. Cancelled.

15. Cancelled.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1.5]]~~ 1, further comprising:
determining statistical information for the received trend data.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1.5]]~~ 1, further comprising:
polling the plurality of terminals for the trend data.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the plurality of terminals are randomly selected for polling.

19. Cancelled.

20. Cancelled.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1.5]]~~ 1, wherein each received subscriber selection user-input corresponds to an event at the terminal, and wherein the trend data includes a plurality of events collected at the plurality of terminals.

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22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, ~~wherein the analyzing includes further comprising:~~
categorizing the plurality of events into time of day at which the events occurred.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 ~~wherein the analyzing includes further comprising:~~
categorizing the plurality of events into day of week at which the events occurred.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 ~~wherein the analyzing includes further comprising:~~
categorizing the plurality of events by geographic regions in which the events occurred.

25. (Withdrawn) A method for providing information in an information distribution system, comprising:
receiving trend data based on user inputs at a plurality of terminals;
analyzing the trend data in accordance with one or more categories; and
delivering contents to the plurality of terminals based at least in part on the analyzed trend data.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the trend data includes demographic information collected for the plurality of terminals.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
selecting and targeting contents for delivery to the plurality of terminals based on the analyzed trend data.

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28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the targeted contents include advertisements or programming, or a combination thereof.

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